Requirements for the Standard Professional Mild/Moderate Disabilities Special Education Certificate – Grades K-12

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional Mild/Moderate Disabilities, K-12 Certificate

The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Professional Mild/Moderate Disabilities, K-12 Certificate are:

1. **Application:** Submission of a completed [Application for Certification](#) and the appropriate fee (see Application for Certification).

2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (IVP)](#) fingerprint clearance card.

3. **Bachelor’s degree:** A Bachelor’s or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
   - **Required Documentation:** Official transcript(s) posting the degree and date awarded.

4. **One of the following (Option A, B, or C):**

   **Option A. Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a teacher preparation program in mild/moderate disabilities special education from a Board-approved educator preparation program or from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training, addressing the topics listed below and any others as required by law: Research-based systematic phonics; Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia; Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction; The learning environment, including classroom and behavioral management; Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies; Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning; Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations; Research-based instruction in math; Research-based instruction in English language arts; Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements; Language development and disorders; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 in mild/moderate special education in grades kindergarten through twelve, which may be completed during the valid period of a teaching intern certificate.
   - **Required Documentation:** Official transcripts or an Arizona Institutional Recommendation (IR) documenting completion of the teacher preparation program.

   **Option B. Teaching Experience and Coursework/Training.** Both of the following:

   **B-1.** Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in mild/moderate disabilities special education grades kindergarten through twelve.
   - **Required Documentation:** A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the school Superintendent or Personnel/HR director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience.
   - **-AND-**

   **B-2.** Completion of Board approved or accredited coursework or trainings which teach the knowledge and skills described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602 and address the following topics:
   - a. Research-based systematic phonics;
   - b. Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia;
   - c. Instructional design and lesson planning, including specially designed instruction;
   - d. The learning environment, including classroom and behavioral management;
e. Instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies;
f. Legal aspects of special education, including individualized education programs and transition planning;
g. Effective collaboration and communication practices, including modifications and accommodations;
h. Research-based instruction in math;
i. Research-based instruction in English language arts;
j. Assessment and eligibility, including monitoring and reporting requirements;
k. Language development and disorders;
l. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct;
   o Required Documentation: Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

Option C. Out-of-State Certification. The applicant holds a valid, comparable Mild/Moderate Disabilities Special Education certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Applicants who qualify under this option are not required to meet the exam requirements listed under #5.
   o Required Documentation: A photocopy of the valid, comparable teaching certificate from another state.

5. Professional Knowledge Special Education Exam Requirement. One of the following (Option A, B, C, or D):
   Option A. NES/AEPA: A passing score on the AEPA/NES Special Education (NT 601) exam.
   o Required Documentation: A photocopy of the official NES or AEPA score report.
   Option B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Special Education examination from another state or agency.
   o Required Documentation: An original, official score report, or a verification letter from the state agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the exam.
   Option C. NBPTS: A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).
   o Required Documentation: A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.
   Option D. Teaching Experience: Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in mild/moderate disabilities special education grades K-12 Note: Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.
   o Required Documentation: A Verification of Teaching Experience form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director, verifying the required teaching experience.

Requirements # 6, #7, #8, #9, and #10 are allowable deficiencies which must be completed in the specified timeframe

The following requirements must be completed within one year or three years to maintain the validity of the certificate:

6. Arizona Constitution: A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.

7. U.S. Constitution: A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.
8. **Phonics**: A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based systematic phonics.

9. **Dyslexia**: A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia.

10. **Ethics**: A college course or Board approved or accredited training in professional responsibility and ethical conduct.

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**Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements**: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution and/or U.S. Constitution, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements, except that if you are certified to teach an academic course on history, government, social studies, citizenship, law, or civics, you have **one year** to fulfill the Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements. **

**Phonics, Dyslexia, and Ethics Requirements**: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Phonics, Dyslexia, and/or Ethics requirements, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements. **

**NOTE**: If you do not complete the allowable deficiency requirements within the allowable time frame, your Standard teaching certificate will be **temporarily suspended** and will not be valid for employment until the deficiency is corrected. A temporary suspension for failure to meet these requirements is not considered a disciplinary action and a person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining timeframe of the certificate. **